

A career talk

Mr Munene, the Grade Eight class teacher, was in a jovial mood. He smiled at every learner as he asked questions and led the class discussions. "Might he have received some good news?" Owen wondered.

Just at that point, Mr Munene looked at Owen. "Owen Malanda, what career would you like to pursue?" he asked.

The question caught Owen off guard.

He scratched his head and shifted in

his chair. He knew about several careers. He liked all of them but had not settled on one in particular.

"I am sorry, Sir," he said, almost in a whisper. "I like all the available careers."

Mr Munene then looked at the other learners.

"Sir, I know what I want to be!" said Tony after raising his hand. "I want to be an **information technology expert**."

"I want to be an **educator**," exclaimed Dora. "I made that decision a long time ago."

"That's very good, Tony and Dora. It is good to know the careers you would like to pursue. The earlier, the better. Now you two, how much do you know about your **dream careers**?"

Tony and Dora looked at the teacher, at each other, then at the ceiling. Clearly, they did not have much information.

"Please Sir, allow us to do some research," Tony said.

"We shall find out about our dream careers from the Internet or books and come with more information tomorrow," Dora added.

Owen chuckled without parting his lips. "Those two thought they knew everything," he mused. "It seems they are just like me. When they go to the library to research, they will find me there."

"Let everybody read about their dream careers," Mr Munene said. "We will have visitors in school tomorrow. They will be talking about career choices in Kenya. Attendance is not **compulsory**, but I would like to see all of you attend the event."

The following afternoon, a number of learners gathered in the school hall to listen to the visitors. Owen was not among them. He decided to spend time in the library instead.

"Look at the gentleman in the dark suit," Tony whispered to Dora. "He looks so smart. He is so polished. I want to be like him! I hope I will not feel like a tortoise out of its shell when I begin to wear suits!"



"I agree," Dora said. "He looks like somebody who has a really good job. Let us listen to him."

Soon the gentleman stepped forward and began to address the learners.

"I am a mechanic," he said. "I am here to tell you why being a mechanic is a good option."

The mechanic talked about the exciting experiences in his career journey. Dora took notes, but Tony just sat and listened. He had not carried any writing material. After the **informative** talk, some learners had decided that they wanted to become mechanics.

"I am sorry. I made a mistake," Tony told Dora after several other presentations. He was quite unhappy. "I did not carry a notebook. Please **lend** me your notes."

"That is fine, but please return them as soon as you make your own copy," Dora said.

Owen heard the commotion and rushed out of the library. He wanted to know what the excitement was all about.

"What is going on?" he asked the fast-walking learners. Nobody paid attention to him as they were busy discussing their career choices. When Dora passed by, he asked her the same question.

"We have been listening to a wonderful talk on careers! Now many learners have decided on the careers they would like to pursue."

"Exactly what did the visitors say?" Owen shouted above the noise.

"Several of the visitors said useful things," Dora replied. "I took some notes in my very good handwriting. Tony has borrowed the notes. Once he returns them, you can also have a look, and perhaps make your own copy."

"That will be very kind of you, Dora!" Owen said. "I will never miss a career talk again."